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**PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No. A1232-US-NP**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Alain E. Perregaux et al.

Application No.: 09/996,681

Filed: 11/30/2001

Examiner: Lan Vinh

Art Unit: 1765

Confirmation No.: 4178

**Title: USE OF A U-GROOVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE
TO USING A V-GROOVE FOR PROTECTION
AGAINST DICING INDUCED DAMAGE IN SILICON**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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Francie S. LePore

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In keeping with a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114, and
responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 9, 2004, please amend the
application as follows: